CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1   1.   A method for organizing email messages received by a user,

2   comprising:

3   detecting receipt of email messages;

4   determining if the received email messages identify a recipient to which an

5   original email message was transmitted by the user; and

6   organizing responsive content from at least two independent received email

7   messages in a consolidated file such that responsive content that pertains to a given

8   email exchange is contained within a single file.

1   2.   The method of claim 1, wherein determining if the received email

2   messages identify a recipient comprises determining if senders of the received email

3   messages were recipients to which the original email message was transmitted.

1   3.   The method of claim 1, wherein organizing responsive content

2   comprises organizing the responsive content from at least two independent received

3   email messages that comprise direct responses to the original email message.

1   4.   The method of claim 1, wherein organizing responsive content

2   comprises organizing the responsive content relative to content of the original email

3   message.

1   5.   The method of claim 1, wherein organizing responsive content

2   comprises comparing content contained within the received email messages with

3   content contained within the original email message transmitted by the user to identify

4   common content.

1   6.   The method of claim 5, wherein organizing responsive content further

2   comprises omitting the common content so as not to provide multiple copies of

3   originally-transmitted content.

1   7.   The method of claim 1, wherein organizing responsive content

2   comprises organizing the responsive content in accordance with a date and time that

3   the responsive content was received.

1   8.   The method of claim 1, wherein organizing responsive content

2   comprises organizing the responsive content in accordance with at least one of a

3   sender name, a size of the responsive content, a priority of the sender, and an

4   identified importance with which the responsive content was sent.

1   9.   The method of claim 1, wherein organizing responsive content in a

2   consolidated file comprises organizing the responsive content in a consolidated email

3   message.

1   10. The method of claim 9, wherein organizing the responsive content in a

2 consolidated email message comprises organizing the responsive content in a

3 consolidated email message presented in an email application inbox in lieu of the

4 independent incoming email messages.

1   11. The method of claim 1, further comprising organizing new content that

2 is responsive to previously-organized responsive content in the consolidated file by

3 associating the new content with the previously-organized responsive content.

1   12. A system for organizing email messages received by a user,

2 comprising:

3   means for monitoring receipt of email messages;

4   means for detecting receipt of email messages;

5   means for determining if the received email messages were sent by a recipient

6 to which an original email message was transmitted by the user; and

7   means for organizing responsive content from at least two of the independent

8 received email messages sent by a recipient in a consolidated file such that all

9 responsive content that pertains to a given email exchange is contained within a single

10 file.

1   13.   The system of claim 12, wherein the means for organizing responsive

2   content comprise means for comparing content contained within the received email

3   messages with content contained within the original email message transmitted by the

4   user to identify common content, and further comprising means for omitting the

5   common content so as not to provide multiple copies of originally-transmitted content.

1   14.   The system of claim 12, wherein the means for organizing responsive

2   content comprise means for organizing the responsive content in accordance with at

3   least one of a date and time that the responsive content was received, a sender name, a

4   size of the responsive content, a priority of the sender, and an identified importance

5   with which the responsive content was sent.

1   15.   The system of claim 12, wherein the means for organizing the

2   responsive content comprise means for organizing the responsive content in a

3   consolidated email message provided in an email application inbox in lieu of the

4   independent incoming email messages.

1   16.   The system of claim 12, further comprising means for organizing new

2   content that is responsive to previously-organized responsive content in the

3   consolidated file by associating the new content with the previously-organized

4   responsive content.

1   17.   A message organization manager stored on a computer-readable

2   medium, the manager comprising:

3   logic configured to determine if received email messages identify an intended

4   recipient to which an original email message was transmitted by the user; and

5   logic configured to organize responsive content from at least two independent

6   received email messages that were determined to identify an intended recipient in a

7   consolidated file such that all responsive content that pertains to a given email

8   exchange is contained within a single file.

1   18.   The manager of claim 17, wherein the logic configured to determine if

2   the received email messages identify an intended recipient comprises logic configured

3   to determine if senders of the received email messages were recipients to which the

4   original email message was transmitted.

1   19.   The manager of claim 17, wherein the logic configured to organize

2   responsive content comprises logic configured to compare content contained within

3   the received email messages with content contained within the original email message

4   to identify common content, and further comprising logic configured to omit the

5   common content.

1   20.   The manager of claim 17, wherein the logic configured to organize

2   responsive content comprises logic configured to organize the responsive content in

3   accordance with a date and time that the responsive content was received.

1   21.   The manager of claim 17, wherein the logic configured to organize

2   responsive content comprises logic configured to organize the responsive content in

3   accordance with at least one of a sender name, a size of the responsive content, a

4   priority of the sender, and an identified importance with which the responsive content

5   was sent.

1   22.   The manager of claim 17, wherein the logic configured to organize

2   responsive content in a consolidation file comprises logic configured to organize the

3   responsive content in a consolidated email message that is provided in an email

4   application inbox in lieu of the independent incoming email messages.

1   23.   The manager of claim 17, further comprising logic configured to

2   organize new content that is responsive to previously-organized responsive content in

3   the consolidated file by associating the new content with the previously-organized

4   responsive content.